

REMARKS

Claims 1-27 are all the claims pending in the application. Claim 27 has been added through the present amendment.

Claims 1-5,7,15, 16,17,19,20 and 24-26 are allowed. Claims 6,18 and 21-23 are rejected.

As a preliminary matter, Applicant submits that claim 15 was omitted from the listing of allowed claims in the Office Action Summary, whereas page 4 of the Office Action lists claim 15 as being allowed. In the next Action, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to check off item no. 10 on the Office Action Summary to confirm acceptance of the drawings originally filed in the present application on April 30, 2001, revised Figs. 4 and 7 filed on October 8, 2003¹, and Fig. 8 filed on December 9, 2004.

Claims 6, 18, and 21-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The Examiner states that the addition of "wherein the irregularities include plural periodicity" is new matter. Claims 6, 18, and 21-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Potsch et al. (3,788,180) in view of Wingen (4,275,631).

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the in-person interview of November 15, 2007. During the interview, the Applicant argued that claims 6, 18 and 21-23 are fully supported in the original disclosure and the Examiner agreed. Therefore, Applicant requests the Examiner to withdraw the rejection of claims 6, 18 and 21-23 under § 112, first paragraph.

¹ Applicant thanks the Examiner for acknowledging and accepting the revised drawings of Figs. 4 and 7 on page 2 of the Office Action of December 30, 2003. Applicant, however, requests the same confirmation on the next Office Action Summary.

Through the Interview, Applicant also argued that Wingen does not disclose the claimed irregularities and the plural periodicities and the Examiner indicated that claim 6 is patentably distinct from the express teachings of Wingen.

Previously, the Examiner essentially took the position that knife members 13 may have an irregularity that is perpendicular to the rotational axis. Wingen discloses the possibility of knife members 13 being **tilted** with respect to the axial key 9 since the central mounting hole of knife 13 may not be perfectly perpendicular to the flat end faces of knife 13. See col. 4, lines 3-14. Assuming *arguendo*, that the Examiner is arguing that a rotating and “tilted” knife member 13, may result in a cutting edge of the knife member 13 having a sinusoidally varying height above the surface of the axial key 9 in a direction that is perpendicular to the rotational axis and extends out from the rotational axis, Applicant submits that such sinusoidal variation in height would be of only **one** period. In contrast, claim 6 recites a slitter blade assembly wherein the irregularities include **plural** periodicity.

As discussed with the Examiner during the interview, Applicant also submits that Wingen does not disclose, explicitly or inherently, irregularities continuously disposed along a circumference of the disk-shape rotary blade. Assuming *arguendo*, that that the Wingen discloses irregularities, any inherent irregularities would not be continuously disposed along the circumference of the disk-shaped rotary blade. Applicant submits that the Examiner indicated the above language as further distinguishing claim 6 from Wingen.

Claims 18 and 21-23, which depend from claim 6, are patentable for at least the reasons submitted for claim 6.

Applicant submits new claim 27, which depends from claim 6, to more fully claim the invention.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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